

Street. At the time, it was the twentieth secondary school sponsored by the Jesuits in the U.S. An all male college preparatory high school, the Wildcats continue to live by the school motto, "Men for Others." Academically, St. Ignatius is one of Ohio's most prestigious high schools. It is St. Ignatius great emphasis on academic achievement which produces scholars and which translates to success both on and off the field. Each year 99% of its students go on to four-year college programs.

Led by Coach Chuck Kyle, the St. Ignatius Wildcats took to the field at 7:07 p.m. on December 3, 2011 against the Pickerington Tigers. The Wildcats gained an early lead in the first quarter, highlighted by a 45 yard touchdown pass by Eric Williams to Tim McCoy. The first half ended with the Wildcats ahead, thanks to two Tim Shenk field goals and a Tim McVey rushing touchdown, by a score of 20-13. The second half was dominated by the Wildcats defense, which did not allow the Tigers to score again. The Wildcats offense continued to produce; Tim McVey ran for another touchdown and Eric Williams threw a 40 yard touchdown to Jake Mooney. At 10:03 p.m., the St. Ignatius Wildcats left the field as OHSAA Division I State Champions for the 11th time in 12 state championship appearances with a score of 34-13.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating the 2011 OHSAA Division I State Champions, the St. Ignatius Football Team.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ALMA R. HOLLINS-RUCKER FOR HER DEDICATION TO SERVING OTHERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Alma R. Hollins-Rucker. Mrs. Rucker was born and raised in Yazoo City, Mississippi. She is the daughter of Mr. Arnett Hollins and the late Ms. Carrie Mae Wright. She is a pillar of her community for not only holding reputable positions within her church, but by also promoting a positive image and reputation through her service to others in the community.

Mrs. Rucker started serving the Lord at an early age at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church where she is still a member and serves as President of the Pastor's Aide Club and Chair of the Trustee Board.

She graduated from Yazoo City High School in 1970 and attended Draughton's Business College. After attending Draughton's Business College, she became the Assistant Librarian at Lamar Library and retired four years later in management due to an acquired disability.

Despite her handicap, Mrs. Rucker continues to serve her community through countless acts of servitude. She volunteers at several food pantries and nursing homes and provides donations to various organizations throughout her community. Mrs. Rucker is the mother of five children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Alma R. Rucker for her dedication to serving others in need.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed three votes on the afternoon of January 18, 2012, which included rollcall votes 2, 3, and 4.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 2, Representative SCOTT's (SC-01) bill, H. Res. 515.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 3, Approval of the Journal.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 4, Representative TOM REED's (NY-29) bill, H.J. Res. 98.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION OF A HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPION: DOUGLAS A. JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inspiring career of Mr. Doug Johnson, an international leader and voice for human rights, on the occasion of his retirement from the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT).

When the Center for Victims of Torture opened in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1985 it was the first center of its kind in the United States and only the third torture treatment center in the world. Doug Johnson became its Executive Director in 1988 and served in this role for the next 23 years. Today, because of Doug's extraordinary leadership and commitment to eradicating torture, CVT is helping thousands of torture survivors from over 60 countries at centers in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, the District of Columbia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Jordan, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Thanks to Doug Johnson's vision, CVT has become a global leader in the treatment of torture. Doug and CVT have received numerous awards for their pioneering work, including the National Crime Victims Service Award, which is the highest civilian honor awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice. CVT is also a leading advocate for torture victims. Doug worked closely with former Minnesota Senator Dave Durenberger to pass the original Torture Victims Relief Act in 1998, which authorizes federal funding for torture survivor rehabilitation programs in the U.S. and abroad. The United States is the world's largest donor to torture survivor rehabilitation thanks to leaders like Doug Johnson.

CVT's central and steadfast conviction that torture is a crime against humanity—a crime against all of us—is one that I share. It is a weapon of terror, intimidation and cruelty that seeks to dehumanize its victims and traumatize their communities. Torture victims face debilitating and unimaginable physical, social, emotional and spiritual scarring. Unfortunately, thousands of our brothers and sisters around

the world have experienced this horror and are struggling each day to live with its aftermath. That is why the work of the Center for Victims of Torture is so incredibly important.

While it is easy for many of us to point fingers at foreign governments when human rights are abused and torture is used to coerce, silence, or intimidate, it takes the courage of one's convictions to stand up to one's own government when abuses are exposed. During the past decade, Doug was a voice for America's best and highest ideals of due process and respect for human rights. When the American people learned of torture as a sanctioned interrogation technique by our own government in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, or other clandestine prisons, it was Doug Johnson who spoke out loudly and fearlessly. He rallied human rights leaders and policy makers to condemn these abuses and sought to expose them for what they were—torture. Doug influenced the debate in Congress and helped elevate torture as an issue of national significance.

CVT is a Minnesota treasure and it has been my pleasure to work closely with Doug Johnson over the past eleven years. The legacy of Doug Johnson will live on in CVT's work providing hope for survivors of torture around the world and bring us ever closer to a world free from torture.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JOSEPH LEE JOHNSON

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Joseph Lee Johnson, a dynamic leader of the religious community and a founder of the Police Chaplains Program in the City of Richmond, California—and to mark his passing on January 9, 2012, at the age of 93.

Born in Westdale, Louisiana on September 3, 1918, to the late Adeline and Bill Johnson, J.L. Johnson was one of twelve children. In December of 1937, he met Ida Mae Gilliom—they were married two weeks later on January 11, 1938. He and Ida Mae remained happily married for nearly 74 years.

In September 1943 he and Ida Mae moved to Vallejo, California, where he worked at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. It was there that he united with Union Baptist Church where he served on the Deacon Board until 1950, when he was ordained and became Pastor of St. John Missionary Baptists Church in Vallejo. He continued to pastor at St. John Church for over 21 years. Reverend Johnson organized the Baptist Ministers Union of Vallejo, and was elected its first president. In addition, he was president of the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance for many years, organizing local clergy around issues such as promoting civil rights, ending hunger, and curbing violence.

Reverend Johnson also started one of the first food programs in Richmond where he was instrumental in working with government agencies to provide cheese, butter and other food to local churches to feed low-income families.

He was a peacemaker. During the social unrest of the 1960s, the Bissell property where Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church is now located was, at the time, the local headquarters

for the Black Panther Party. Reverend Johnson and others negotiated with the late Huey P. Newton and Party leaders to acquire the building as a church and an outlet to serve the needs of the community. In the early 1980s, Reverend Johnson played an integral role between African American police officers and the City of Richmond Police Department to address racial divisions within the department. Those efforts resulted in the very first Police Chaplin Program in the country. Reverend Johnson and other ministers rode with police officers to provide spiritual counseling, comfort and prayer to men and women of the force as well as victims of violence and their families. He served as a Police Chaplin for almost 20 years.

Reverend Johnson received his Bachelor of Arts in Theology from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois, and his degree in Christian Doctrine from the Divinity School of Oakland Seminary. He was a mentor to many young preachers and pastors, and worked tirelessly beyond the boundaries of his faith community by counseling and advising local civic leaders. Reverend J.L. Johnson was a very proud man who would often say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." His presence will be greatly missed throughout our community. I ask my colleagues to join with me in offering sincere condolences to his wife of 74 years, Ida Mae Johnson and to the entire Church Family of Elisabeth Missionary Baptist Church.

IN HONOR OF MICHELINE
BENEDICT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Micheline "Mickey" Benedict as she retires after 50 years of service at St. Ignatius High School as Director of Technology.

From an early age Mickey has been part of the St. Ignatius High School community. Her uncles, Fr. George Kmieck, the former Dean of Philosophy at John Carroll University, and Dr. Peter Kmieck, the St. Ignatius High School team physician, began bringing Mickey to the school at the age of two.

Mickey began her career with St. Ignatius High School in May 1961. She was hired by Fr. Pingstock and made \$1.25 per hour for clerical and typing work. In November of 1997, she was promoted to head the school's Computer Services Department by Fr. Robert Welsh. She led a team of 20 who worked to move the school into the age of modern technology. Mickey was promoted to the position of Director of Technology in May of 2000 and held the position until her retirement in December of 2011.

The St. Ignatius High School community will celebrate the career of Mickey Benedict on January 20, 2012 with a mass and school wide reception.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mickey Benedict and congratulating her on her retirement from St. Ignatius High School following 50 years of dedicated service.

A TRIBUTE TO LOUIS RONEY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louis Roney, who has devoted his life both as a performing artist and in support of the arts. Throughout his career as a long-time leading operatic tenor, he has been featured in the great opera houses of Europe and North America. As a great patron of the arts in Florida, he has recently been recognized and will soon be inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame.

Mr. Roney's professional music career began after his studies at Harvard and commanded service in the U.S. Navy during WWII. Over four decades he sang leading roles throughout Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Brussels, Munich and Lisbon, as well as Italy, Canada, and of course, the United States. He was frequently engaged as a soloist all across America and Europe and appeared in numerous movies and national operatic festivals over the course of his career. Over the years he has performed as leading tenor in every major French and German opera house. His life work has been performing, teaching and supporting music.

Though he spent his whole life mingling amongst heads of state, royalty and Europe's cultural elite, he never lost a deep sense of how art can transcend power and wealth and can be appreciated and enjoyed by everyone. Mr. Roney has said that, "The artist's life is a 'giving' proposition. And if giving is more blessed than receiving, the artist is more blest than those who enjoy his art."

Returning to his home State of Florida after his European career, Mr. Roney continued to devote his life to expanding cultural opportunities for others. He founded and for 17 years led Orlando's Festival of Orchestras. He served as Distinguished Professor of Music and Artist in Residence Emeritus at the University of Central Florida. In both of these roles Mr. Roney has worked with passion and dedication to make culture and the arts accessible to as many people as possible.

Mr. Roney is well deserving of the honor and induction into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. This recognition expresses our State's appreciation for his selfless service to the humanities and salutes a life lived with great dignity and purpose, as well as a daily sense of the high calling of the artist. He and his career have had a deep and profound impact on our community, State and Nation. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Mr. Roney for his decades of service and congratulate him on the Florida Artists Hall of Fame's recognition of his invaluable contributions.

CONGRATULATING MIKE ABRAMS

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, today, I'd like to congratulate Mike Abrams on his new position with the Iowa Hospital Association. Mike has been at the Iowa Medical Soci-

ety for 15 years, and he has been a friend and adviser to me since I came to Congress in 2007.

For years, Iowa has suffered from unfair Medicare reimbursement rates, and a flawed equation that determines payments. Within the first few months of my Congressional career, Mike was in my office helping me find solutions to that problem. It was only with Mike's help that we were able to increase payments to Iowa doctors, and take significant steps towards a reimbursement structure based on quality of care, not just quantity of care. He has been a resource to me, and he often served as my "lifeline" during late-night, high-level health care negotiations over the last few years.

Mike's knowledge and understanding of current health care issues is matched only by his terrific wit and shining personality. Iowa doctors and patients have benefited from his time at Iowa Medical Society, and he has helped me advocate for improved access to health care in Iowa. Thank you, Mike, and we wish you the best in your new endeavor.

IN HONOR OF ARMY SERGEANT
FIRST CLASS BENJAMIN WISE

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated soldier and true American hero who died in service to this great country. On January 15, 2012, U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Benjamin B. Wise, who was 34 years old, died at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant First Class Wise died of injuries sustained on January 9, 2012, in Balkh Province, Afghanistan, from small arms fire.

SFC Benjamin Wise graduated from West Side Christian High School in El Dorado, Ark., in 1995 and eventually joined the United States Armed Forces in 2000, where he began a distinguished military career. At the time of his death, SFC Wise was on his fourth deployment overseas—once in Iraq and three times to Afghanistan—and was assigned to A Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

SFC Wise was an outstanding soldier and, according to his family, incredibly proud of the career he built in the Army. During his 11 years as a soldier, SFC Wise earned three Army Commendation Medals; three Army Good Conduct Medals; the National Defense Service Medal; two Afghanistan Campaign Medals with Bronze Service Stars; three Iraq Campaign Medals with Bronze Service Stars; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; two Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbons; the Army Service Ribbon; two Overseas Service Ribbons; the NATO Medal; the Parachutist Badge, Basic; the Combat Infantryman Badge; the Expert Infantry Badge; the Combat and Special Skill Badge, Basic Marksmanship Qual Badge; the Canadian Parachutist Badge; the Special Forces Tab; and four Overseas Service Bars.

SFC Wise was also posthumously awarded two Bronze Star Medals for his bravery in battle and a Purple Heart for giving his life in service to his country.